

A
L E T T E R
TO A L A T E
N O B L E C O M M A N D E R
O F T H E
B R I T I S H F O R C E S
I N
G E R M A N Y.

The FOURTH EDITION, revised and corrected
by the AUTHOR.

To which is added, A POSTSCRIPT.



L O N D O N :

Printed for R. GRIFFITHS, opposite *Somerſet-*
houſe, in the *Strand*.

M.DCC.LIX.

[Price One Shilling.]

LETTER

NUMBER

OF THE

OF THE

OF THE

OF THE



OF THE

OF THE

A

LETTER

TO

MY LORD,

I SHALL make no Apology for addressing you in this public Manner. In a free Nation, every Man who fills a Post of Trust and Importance, is accountable to his Fellow-citizens for the just Discharge of his Duty. Every one is deeply interested in his Behaviour; every one therefore has a Right to scrutinize his Conduct; every one has the Privilege of expostulating with him on the Merits of his Actions.

At the same time pardon me the Pride of assuring you that this Address to you is dictated by my Concern for the Honour of my Country, and my Zeal for its Welfare; both which, from Circumstances hitherto apparent, are thought to have been injured by your Misconduct.

A 2

1

I AM moved by no personal Animosity, heated by no Party, instigated by no Faction. It is not to Lord ———, but to the *British* Commander that I urge my Remonstrances. The Officer, not the Man, is the Subject of my Animadversions.

THAT the Lustre of your high Rank is darkened by an inglorious Eclipse, is to me rather Matter of Concern than Triumph. I mourn likewise that the *Brilliance* of that shining Day, when the Confederates in the Cause of Liberty vanquished the Forces of *France*, should be thought to have received Diminution from *your* Inactivity, who ought to have given additional Splendor to Conquest.

THOUGH I mourn principally for the Public, I nevertheless feel for you in particular. I do not mean to add Insult to Misfortune. I do not endeavour to raise a fatal Prejudice against you, and anticipate public Judgment before you are *legally* convicted of public Offence.

I AM sensible of the Danger of inflaming the Multitude under a free Government. When a popular Tumult has been industriously raised, I know that Justice has been too often sacrificed to appease it.

No one can be ignorant of the cruel Means which were used to inflame the Public, against a late unhappy Delinquent, and chief Commander at Sea. Before he had set his Foot on Shore, Papers and Pamphlets pronounced his Condemnation; he was borne along the Streets by the Mob as a Spectacle of Infamy, and hung in Effigy.

DURING his Trial, every Article of Examination daily underwent the severest Comment. The Charges against him fell under the Heads of *Cowardice*, *Negligence*, or *Disaffection*. His Judges unanimously acquitted him of the *first* and *last*. He died—for his NEGLIGENCE.

IF Justice obliged them to condemn him, yet his *Negligence* was not thought so capital, as to exclude him from *Mercy*. His Judges unanimously and warmly recommended him as a fit Object of Royal Clemency. The Clamour which this Recommendation occasioned, is recent in every one's Ears. The Demands of Justice were loud from every Quarter: The Walls in every Street were defaced with Scrolls, which called for Vengeance: Majesty itself was menaced; and popular Rage dared to interfere with the Exercise of the most noble Prerogative of the Crown.

I DO not mean however to insinuate, that public Clamour influenced the Royal Determination. Our Sovereign has not only the Disposition, but the Fortitude to be just. Had it been a Time for Clemency, the Delinquent had not fallen a Victim to the Rigour of his Sentence.

THE Occasion called for Severity. The Offence was proved: The Law declared the Punishment: The Nation demanded Execution; and the Sovereign approved of it. Justice had its free Course, and established an Example, to the Terror of future Offenders.

You, my Lord, are supposed to have been zealous in promoting this Example. Prompted,
no

no doubt, by the Principle which actuates every generous Mind, you paid no Regard to the Wealth of the Delinquent, to his noble Alliances, or high Rank in the Navy. You considered an Individual, however great, to be of little Importance, when placed in Competition with the Public. These Considerations, it is presumed, influenced you to urge his Doom. You had the Nation on your Side. You had more: You had Justice to support your Conduct.

No one can condemn the Zeal, which inspires us with Resentment against Delinquents who betray the Honour, and abandon the Interest of their Country. The Principle is noble, but we certainly ought to be careful in what Manner we direct it. Our Indignation should not transport us so far as to take Facts for granted, before they are proved in a Course of legal Examination.

THIS Caution I mean to observe, in examining the Circumstances of your supposed Criminality. I would not hire a Mob to bear you aloft as an Object of Hatred and Derision; I would not bribe them to hang you in Effigy; neither shall my Pen proclaim you either *cowardly*, *negligent*, or *disaffected*, before you have been heard in your own Vindication.

IT is my Intention to consider the Nature and Consequences of the Delinquency of which you are suspected, and of which you stand *negatively* accused, even by the public Orders which your Superior issued for returning Thanks to his Forces the Day after the Battle.

AT

AT the same time I shall not omit to examine the Validity of those Apologies, which have been offered in your Justification by your Friends at Home. Friends, who, perhaps, may do you more Prejudice by the Weakness of their Palliatives, than your Enemies can, by the Violence of their Accusations.

FROM a candid Enquiry of this Nature, you will become acquainted with the public Sentiments with respect to your Conduct; and you will be better prepared to invalidate the Charges of which you are more than suspected.

As your high Rank and Condition in Life affords you an Opportunity of Information, you cannot be ignorant of the Necessity and Justice of the War in which *Great-Britain* is at present engaged. A War, founded on Self-defence, and undertaken to repel Encroachments.

You cannot be ignorant either of the Expedience or Obligation of supporting those few Allies, with whom we are connected by Treaty, or Interest. With respect to our Alliance with *Prussia* in particular, you must be sensible, that however Ignorance and Malice may exclaim against it, it is nevertheless cemented by the strongest and most lasting of all Ties—that of mutual Interest.

By means of that Connection, we divide the Force of our Enemies. We not only render them incapable of acting offensively against us, but less able to protect their Colonies, and secure their own Coasts from those Invasions, which we have made with so much Glory and Success.

THEY

THEY have neither a Fund of Money, or a Supply of Men, sufficient to serve such different and extensive Purposes. They are confined in their Plans, and languid in their Operations: While we, by a prudent and vigorous Exertion of our Naval Power, have been able to extend our Conquests to the several Quarters of the Globe, at the same time that we provide for our Security at Home, and find Means to detach a considerable Force for the Service of our Allies on the Continent.

WHETHER it be adviseable or not, to send the Forces of *Great-Britain* to fight in *Germany*, is a Subject which has been much controverted, and is quite foreign from my Discussion. It is sufficient for the present Purpose, that it was thought expedient by those, whose Influence caused them to be transported: And whatever might be the Sentiments of Particulars, it is certain that the Approbation of the Kingdom in general, gave a Sanction to the Measure.

No Troops were ever animated with more distinguished Ardour. Commanders among the first Rank of Nobility, Volunteers of Fashion and Fortune, all nursed in the downy Lap of Ease, forsook at once the Pomp of a Court, the Joys of new-wedded Love, with all the Pleasures of a luxurious Town; and crowded to the *German* Shore, to experience Hardships, brave Dangers, and stand in the Front of Death.

THE common Men were worthy of their Leaders. They were picked and culled from
the

the Flower of the *British* Army. Strength, Spirit, and Comeliness, were their Characteristicks. The Command of these chosen Bands, devolved upon your Lordship.

HAD the public Choice directed the Appointment, perhaps no one could have been found more likely to discharge the important Duty with Honour, Skill, and Fidelity. Descended from one of the noblest Stocks in the Kingdom, one eminently distinguished for Loyalty, and yourself honoured with the Confidence of your Sovereign, who could suspect you of Disaffection? Having been tried in Action, and your Firmness extolled, who could doubt your Courage? Of which you are said to bear honourable Marks, where it is a Soldier's Pride to shew them—in your Breast. From the Proofs you had given of your Abilities here, and in a neighbouring Kingdom more especially, who could question your Capacity?

WITH these Impressions in your Favour, you entered upon a Command of such high Consequence to your Country, and such distinguished Honour to yourself. Noble from your Birth, great in your Endowments, every thing great and noble was expected from your Conduct.

To your Country's Detriment, and your own Dishonour, the Expectations of the Public are disappointed. We looked for a Commander, and we find a Commentator. We depended on an active Warrior, and we meet with an idle Disputant: One, who, in the Field of Battle,

B

debates

debates upon Orders with all the Phlegm of an Academic, when he ought to execute them with all the Vigour and Intrepidity of a Hero.

SUCH are the Imputations under which you labour at present : And Facts notoriously public afford Grounds, which more than countenance a Suspicion of your Misconduct. In the Catalogue of Worthies, who received the Thanks of their General for their signal Bravery in the Day of Battle, we find *your Name* omitted. We observe that you are further stigmatized, by an Insinuation that *your* Misbehaviour rendered the Day of Victory less *brilliant*.

You, who were distinguished in Command, ought to have been first distinguished by the Thanks of your Superior. Your Post required the Distinction : It was hoped that your Behaviour would command it. Whence then does this galling Neglect arise ? Why do we find you not only disregarded, but disgraced by a tacit Mark of Opprobrium ?

WHY do we find, that in the Day of Action, the Troops said to have been under your immediate Command, remained in shameful Inactivity, and stood as tame Spectators of the Slaughter of their Countrymen and Confederates ? Why is the *right Wing*, composed of Forces fit to withstand the *Macedonian Phalanx*, or the *Roman Cuneus*, stigmatized with Reproach ?

You alone, my Lord, can answer these Interrogatories. Your Country will demand Satisfaction in these Particulars. Your Honour, nay more, depends on the Explanation.

THESE Circumstances, which carry with them their own Evidence, seem to declare you culpable: They are hitherto uncontroverted; and powerful Reasons will be required to justify a Conduct, so seemingly dishonourable and inexcusable. At present, we lament the Effects of such unaccountable Backwardness; we are eager to judge of the Cause.

I AM sorry to observe that none offers itself to the unbiaſſed Judgement, which can in the least Degree palliate or excuse a Behaviour, which, as viewed at present, wears such a shameful Aspect.

WE remember indeed, that soon after the Command devolved upon you, a disagreeable Rumour prevailed, that there was not such cordial Agreement between your Superior and you, as the Nature of the Confederate-service required.

EVERY Well-wisher to the common Cause, was disturbed at the Report of such an unhappy Misunderstanding. At home, we could not help expressing our Concern, that the Necessity of Affairs should make it requisite for a *British* Commander to receive Orders from a foreign General.

WE could easily conceive that the Delicacy of an *Englishman* of high Birth and exalted Spirit, might be offended at Circumstances of Superiority in a foreign Prince, however tender his Highness might be in the Exercise of his Authority.

WE were willing to attribute the unfortunate Jealousy, to your laudable Zeal for the Honour of your Sovereign, and the Reputation of your Country, which made you, perhaps, too conscious

of your Importance, and anxious to support the Dignity of your Rank and Station.

WE could not forbear applauding the Principle of *national* Pride, though we were apprehensive that it might prevent that familiar Intercourse and Freedom of Consultation which ought to subsist among general Officers, and which not only gives Birth to many great Designs, but often insures their Success in the Execution.

WE could not suspect, however, that a Man of Fashion, Honour, and Understanding, would suffer this noble Principle to degenerate into Envy and Malice; or that he could be so lost to all Sense of true Glory and national Welfare, as to sacrifice the common Interest to private Pique and Resentment.

WE were sensible that no Man better knew the Duties of Subordination than yourself; that no one exacted them from his Inferiors with more scrupulous Rigour. We could not suppose therefore, that on any Occasion you would withhold your Assistance, when demanded; much less could we imagine that on the Day of Battle, you would venture to disobey positive Orders——Orders too, which bid you lead on to Glory.

WE might reasonably conclude, that it would be more necessary to restrain your Impetuosity, than prompt your Ardour. Had Orders been sent forbidding you to charge, or for recalling you from a Pursuit; had your Superior, out of Resentment, enviously tied your Hands to prevent your plucking Wreaths of Laurel, we might indeed

indeed have conjectured that you would dare to disobey: And though a *Roman* Severity would have condemned you for such Disobedience, yet your Countrymen would have absolved you.

WE hoped that Glory was the sole ruling Principle which engaged you to quit a safe and honourable Station at Home, for the Toils and Dangers of a distant War. You knew the Hardships and Perils to which you must be exposed, before you undertook the Charge: On the other hand, you might be sensible of the Lustre which your Character would receive from your shining Services, and be assured of the distinguished Acknowledgments which your grateful Countrymen would pay to your high Deserts.

THESE were inspiring Motives; but these were not all.—Loyalty to an aged Sovereign, who, in the Vale of Life, has the Mortification to see his native Dominions ravaged by a merciless Enemy with more than *Gothic* Devastation, might have animated you in Defence of Territories so dear to their Master, and at present of such Consideration to this Kingdom, not only as connected with us by Alliance, but as suffering on our Account, and for our Sakes.

NOT the Honour alone, but the Interest of your Country was concerned in repelling these barbarous Invaders. Whatever Men of sanguine Expectations may conclude, the Fate of *Hanover* must in a great Degree influence our own. If the Enemy should gain Footing in his Majesty's *German* Dominions, can we, with any Pretence of Faith

Faith and Justice, abandon them who have bled in our Quarrel? Can we hope for an honourable and lasting Peace, unless we have Power to drive the *French* from the *Hanoverian* Borders?

BUT not to insist on the more distant Consequences of Victory, the immediate Advantages resulting from it were powerful Motives to pursue it. When we subdue the Force of our Enemy, we, in some measure, damp their Courage, and dispirit them in their future Operations. Besides Victory, of itself, has Charms for an heroic Commander. The military Reputation of your Country was at Stake, and Reputation is Strength.

IT has too long been a Reproach to *Great-Britain*, that her Generals were unworthy to lead the Men they commanded. The Strength and Bravery of our Soldiers has been highly extolled, but the Skill and Prowess of our Officers have been held in slight Estimation.

OUR Enemies, on the contrary, have been remarked for the Conduct and Intrepidity of their Commanders, but their Men have always been stigmatized as weak and pusillanimous: Furious at the first Onset, but suddenly disheartened by a Repulse.

The *British* Commanders, it is true, have, by their gallant Behaviour in the late Action, effaced this Impression to their Disadvantage. The several noble Names which stand distinguished in the List of those who received the Thanks of their General, are so many shining Testimonies,
that

that the Officers of *Great-Britain* are not ignorant of Discipline, or regardless of Glory.

BUT though this Stigma is removed, it is not wiped off by *you*, my Lord. It was for *you* to clear the *Staff* from the Stains of Reproach, that it might no longer be said, that *English* Soldiers only wanted *French* Officers to be a Match for the combined Forces of *Europe*. In short, you had every thing great and glorious in Prospect : You had nothing to lose — but your *Honour* : For a Soldier's *Life* cannot be properly called his own.

You could not be ignorant of the Duties of the high Post you sustained, nor of the Price you was to pay for your Pre-eminence. Raised above others in military Rank, it was expected that you would excel them in military Virtue. Placed at the Head of some of the choicest among the *British* Forces, it was thought that you would conduct them with Skill and Intrepidity.

A COMMANDER, when he receives his Commission, devotes his Life to his Country. He undertakes to be valiant ; and, in consideration of that Engagement, he holds an eminent Rank in Society, and is honourably supported at the public Expence.

WHY do Thousands obey the Nod of one Man ? but because his Conduct is to guide, his Example to animate them, in the Pursuit of Glory. In the Day of Enterprise he is to repay his Countrymen the Obligations which he owes them, for the Hours of honourable Ease, which,

which, at their Cost, he enjoyed in Time of Peace.

You, my Lord, have too much Reflection to have suffered these Considerations to escape your Notice. You must know what was expected from you : You must be sensible what you owed to your own Character, and what was due to your Country.

How comes it then that the busy Voice of Fame makes bold with your Reputation, and proclaims your Behaviour on the Day of Battle to have been such as is totally inconsistent with every Motive which could influence a wise Man, or determine a brave Commander ?

PUBLIC Rumour begets public Prejudices. It is fit that you should be acquainted with the Reports that are propagated relating to your Conduct. It is Friendship to repeat them. Knowing them, you may, and I wish that you may, be able to remove them. Thus then the Tongue of public Report tells the black Tale against you.

It is said, that on the *first of August*, when the Confederate Army was drawn up against the Forces of *France* and her Allies, when the immediate Security of his Majesty's *German* Dominions, when the Honour and Interest of your King and Country, together with your own Reputation, depended on the Decision of the Field—On that signal Day, when the Action grew warm, and became worthy of your Interposition, it is said that his Highness Prince *Ferdinand*,
the

the Commander in Chief, dispatched one of his Aids de Camp to you, with Orders for you immediately to attack a particular Body of the Enemies Troops.

INSTEAD of an instant Compliance with these Orders, it is reported that you hesitated, and at length intimated, that there must be some Mistake in the Delivery or the Injunction of those Orders. On the Aid de Camp's persisting to repeat them, it is said (which, I own, is scarce credible) that your Confusion carried you so far, that you inconsiderately asked the Aid de Camp, Whether the Orders he brought were in Writing?

UPON his answering, with some Surprise, in the Negative, you are farther reported to have added, 'that you would speak to the Prince 'yourself.' Before you could find an Opportunity of addressing yourself to his Highness however, the Occasion for which your Service was required is said to have been irretrievably lost: A Consequence which might reasonably have been expected from such Delay.

A CONSEQUENCE nevertheless extremely fatal, and which renders your supposed Failure more grievous and unpardonable, if it is true, which many affirm, that the greatest Part of a whole Regiment of bold and gallant *Britons*, were cut to Pieces for want of being supported by the Attack which you was ordered to make.

HIGHLY culpable, as, from such Behaviour, you are supposed to have been, a further Opportunity

tunity yet offered, as it is said, which, had you embraced it with Vigour, would in some Degree have restored your Credit, and made some Reparation for the calamitous Effects occasioned by your former unaccountable Failure.

WHEN the Conduct and Valour of the Confederate Army, though not seconded by your Endeavours, had repulsed the Enemy and routed their Forces, his Highness, we are told, again sent to you by another of his Aids de Camp, and ordered you to pursue a flying Party of the Enemy.

To these Orders likewise you are supposed to have refused Obedience. The Reasons affirmed to have been given by you in Justification of your Refusal, no less disgrace your Capacity, than the Refusal itself seems to dishonour your Courage, or your Integrity.

You are said to have answered the Aid de Camp, who brought you Orders for the Pursuit, 'that you was a Stranger to the Roads, and unacquainted with the Passes.' Had this weak Answer contained the least Apology for your Disobedience, yet the supposed Reply of the Aid de Camp stripped you even of the Shadow of an Excuse. It is asserted, that he offered, 'To shew you the Way himself, and conduct you with Safety.'

THUS driven to Extremity, and left without the slightest Pretence for disobeying the Orders you had received, is it to be believed that you still demurred, and pushed your Expostulations
to

to the Verge of Mutiny? The Answer which public Rumour has put into your Mouth, is indeed incredible. It is just that you should know it. It is affirmed that, persisting in your Disobedience, after long Hesitation, you declared—
 ‘ that you did not think it adviseable to hazard
 ‘ his Majesty’s Troops.’

SUCH is the shocking and dismal Light in which your Conduct is represented. The Colouring is truly hideous: At present however we only see the dark Side of the Picture. It remains for you to exhibit the bright one in your own Vindication.

It is certainly very difficult for Men in public Stations, be their Conduct ever so cautious and circumspect, to avoid creating Enemies. Enmity and Malice will aggravate venial Omissions into capital Failings. We ought not therefore to conclude you guilty of such glaring Absurdity and unpardonable Delinquency, till you have been heard in your Defence. You may have given, or have other, and it is to be hoped *better*, Reasons to give, for refusing to execute the Orders of your Superior.

THE Apology which your Friends make for you, I shall consider as I proceed.

IF however it should be found that you have wilfully disobeyed the Orders you received; if you should have no valid Plea to offer in Justification of such Disobedience: if you should attempt to avail yourself of such sorry Pretences as you are supposed to have urged in Excuse of

your Non-compliance, I tremble for your Fate.

THINK on the Demands of Justice, which will be prosecuted against you by your injured, dishonoured, and enraged Country. Reflect on the severe Doom of the late unfortunate Admiral, who atoned for his *Negligence* with his Life — A Punishment, in your own Opinion, not too rigorous for an Offence by which the Public received Prejudice.

THINK likewise how far the Measure of his Delinquency is exceeded by your own. He drew up his Force, and actually engaged the Enemy. It appeared however that he did not engage with sufficient Vigour and Forwardness. He endeavoured to prove that a nearer Approximation was impracticable. His Plea was found insufficient: He was doomed to die. But the Sentence which adjudged him to Death, was accompanied with a Recommendation of the Delinquent to Mercy, as one who erred from Defect of *Judgement*. Notwithstanding this, notwithstanding the importunate Petitions of noble Relations, notwithstanding the pressing Solicitations of powerful Friends, yet—he obtained no Reprieve.

IF then you should be found guilty of the Charge imputed to you, what Title can you pretend to Clemency? You cannot plead *Error of Judgement* in Excuse of your Delinquency. It was not a time to exercise your Judgement, but to testify your Obedience.

BEFORE

BEFORE the Battle begins, or at a Council of War, an inferior Officer may expostulate with his Superior; may offer his Advice, or urge his Remonstrances, concerning the intended Plan of Operations. But in the Hour of Action it is his Duty to obey Orders, without Remonstrance or Expostulation. The Moment of Success is lost in Dispute, which generally ends in Shame and Defeat. The chief Commander is responsible for the Propriety of his Orders; the inferior Officers are only accountable for their Obedience.

BUT you are supposed to have conceived some Mistake in the Orders. Were *they* then wanting in Perspicuity, or was *you* deficient in Apprehension? They who are acquainted with *your* Talents, will not suspect the latter: The World, which bears Witness to his *Highbness's* Capacity, will not believe the former.

I WILL not suppose that, to cover a wilful Disobedience, you taxed the Orders with Obscurity or Ambiguity, which were nevertheless clear to your Conception. That would be such an aggravating Circumstance, as would not only render the Ears of Mercy deaf to your Supplications, but steel the Heart of Humanity against your Sufferings.

To place your Conduct in every candid Light it seems to admit of; let us grant that you really thought the Commander in Chief to have been mistaken in his Orders, and that it was inexpedient and unadvisable to carry them into Execution: yet remember that they were Orders for an *Attack*.

If you did not approve of the Mode prescribed, it was nevertheless your Duty to pursue the Substance of his Directions.

If you was under strong Conviction that the Plan of Operation enjoined by the Orders was injudicious and ineffectual, you had certainly better have disobeyed them by altering the Scheme, and *leading your Men to Action* in a Manner more conformable to your own Judgement. You would have incurred less Danger, and sustained less Dishonour, by an Attack inconsistent with your Orders, than by an inglorious Inactivity.

THERE is a Generosity in *Britons*, which disposes them to absolve the Brave and Active, tho' their Efforts may be improperly directed and unsuccessfully exerted. He who fights contrary to Orders appears in a fairer Light, than he who attempts to apologize for Inactivity, by arraigning his Directions.

THE Man who transgresses in the former Instance, may, and ought to be, liable to Censure, but will never be exposed to Scandal. He will be applauded for his Intentions, and admired for his Valour, though he may be condemned for his Indiscretion.

HE, on the contrary, who intrrenches himself within the strict Punctilios of Discipline, who scans Syllables, weighs Words, and debates on Phrases, may protect his Person from Punishment, but will never shelter his Character from Scorn.

If you received Orders to make an *Attack*, that *Word* at least must have been explicit. How
then

then could you remain in Inactivity? How could you spend the irrecoverable Moments in commenting on your Orders, and waiting for an Explanation from your Superior? Might you not be assured that the Occasion for your Service would be lost, before you could be satisfied in what Manner to exert it? Could you not conceive, that, if inferior Officers were permitted to expostulate with the Commander in Chief, and to remonstrate against the Obscurity or Impropriety of their Directions, Aids de Camp would have little else to do than to gallop with Scruples from the former, and return with Explanations from the latter; by which Means inferior Officers would never want Pretences for delaying the Execution of their Orders, till the Hour of Action was past.

How could these Considerations escape your Sagacity? But above all, how could you stand an unmoved Spectator of the Carnage before your Eyes? How could you see your Countrymen and Fellow-soldiers, whom you was ordered to support, slaughtered within your View, and yet withhold your Assistance?

THIS was adding Inhumanity to Disobedience. If you have Feeling, mourn the Loss of those gallant Fellows, who will hereafter rise up in Judgement against you. Their Blood will fix indelible Stains on your Conscience, never to be effaced.

NOT only the Lives of those immediately lost for Want of your Support, but of those who may
here-

hereafter fall in future Actions, which might have been prevented by having made this more *complete* and decisive, will be placed to your Account, as Victims to your Disobedience.

HE who temporizes, and neglects an Opportunity of serving his Country, is guilty of all the Blood shed afterwards in its Defence. Why was public Rage so violent against the late unhappy Admiral? Why is his Memory still odious to many zealous Patriots? But because it was, and is still apprehended, that, had he exerted himself with becoming Vigour, our Enemy had not only lost present Advantages, but had been disabled from undertaking future Enterprizes. Had he done his Duty, it is thought that the War had ere now been concluded in our Favour.

THOUGH he paid his Life for the Omission, yet public Vengeance was not satisfied. Inhumanity was superadded to Justice. His very Urn was mangled. Epitaphs were composed, in which his Memory was blackened with such a Cloud of public and private Vices, as was sufficient to darken even Hell itself. Yet all this sanguine Resentment pursued a Man, who, *from the Declaration of his Judges*, was only guilty of an *Error in Judgement*.

THE Reflection should alarm you. If guilty, you seem to have been guilty of a Failure of the *Will*. You was directed: You disobeyed. Your Judgement was not concerned. You had no Right to use it. Had it been your Place to have issued Orders, you might have exercised it: As
it

it was your Duty to receive them, there was no Room for its Interposition.

It may be said, that as you must nevertheless use your Judgement in the *Construction* of your Orders; as it was your Business to understand, though not dispute them, your Hesitation and Inactivity were therefore excusable. Was this Pretence allowed, inferior Officers might always find Means to delay their Duty, by affecting not to comprehend the Sense of their Orders. But if they shew a Disposition to be serviceable, if they are active and brave, the Errors of their *Apprehension* will be pardoned.

ADMITTING however that your Orders were worded ambiguously; yet the Word *Attack* made the *Substance* of them clear. Had you directed an Attack to a wrong Place, or in a wrong Manner, the Plea of *Misapprehension* might have availed you; at present it is of no Weight: For it is no where pretended that you received Orders —to stand still.

IN short, there are but these two Alternatives in the Case: 1. Either you understood your Orders, but thought them improper to be put in Execution; Or, 2^{dly}, you did not comprehend them, and therefore left them unexecuted.

IN the first Instance, you are inexcusable. It was not your Business to judge of their Propriety, for which your Superior alone was accountable, but instantly to obey their Directions. In the second, you are equally unpardonable. If your Orders were ambiguous, it was nevertheless your

D

Duty

Duty to have been *active*. They were clear as to that Point. Admitting however that they were not, supposing them totally ambiguous; in that Case, you should have pursued the most natural Construction which your own Conjecture and Sagacity could form: You should have *acted* according to the best Dictates of your own Judgement.

YOUR Judgement must have suggested, that it was neither for the Honour or Interest of your Country, or for your own Safety and Glory, to remain inactive in the Hour of Battle, and stand an unmoved Spectator of the Slaughter before you.—Your Judgement must have told you, that it would have been safer to have acted wrong, than not to have acted at all. Your Judgement would have informed you, that by waiting for an Explanation of your Orders, you exposed yourself to Dishonour, and the Service of the Day to irreparable Injury. Your Judgement would have instructed you, that, if inferior Officers might plead the Impropriety or Ambiguity of their Orders in Delay of their Execution, it would be impossible for a Commander in Chief to enforce the Duties of Subordination; and in vain for him to adjust a Plan of Operations.

LET us suppose however, that you had received *no* Orders to engage. Yet how could you stand inactive when you saw your Countrymen fall before you? Would not your Spirit lead you to revenge the Slain? Would not your Humanity excite you to support the Survivors?

COULD

COULD you imagine that you was placed at the Head of such choice and gallant Forces, only to make a Shew in the Day of Battle? Could you conclude that you was distinguished by such an honourable Command, only to lord it over Subalterns, and enrich yourself by the vast Profits of a Campaign? You knew your Duty better: And yet you were inactive. That Fact is not disputed. The Cause we are yet to learn.

If it was possible, from the foregoing Circumstances, to acquit you of Disobedience to the first Orders you received, yet how shall we absolve you of disobeying the second. They were positive in their Nature, and explicit in their Meaning.

You was directed to pursue. Your declaring yourself, or being, a Stranger to the Roads, was no Excuse for your Refusal. It was your Duty to have urged the Pursuit through such Passes as appeared to *you* safest and nearest. If you *ought* to have been acquainted with them, your Ignorance is a Reproach to you. If it was not reasonable to suppose you acquainted with them, the Commander in Chief would have been answerable for any Miscarriage attending your Deviation; the Censure would have fallen upon *him*, for appointing you to a Service, which you might be presumed unfit to execute.

AT all Events your Compliance was requisite and indispensable. We have read and heard of Commanders who have thought themselves bound to lead their Men to inevitable Destruction, where

the Orders of their Chief have been positive. I will not refer you, for Instances, to the *Grecian* or *Roman* Page. I will appeal to your own Knowledge and Experience, and to the History of your own Country.

BUT what shall we say, when we find you disarmed of the only Pretence under which you sheltered your Disobedience? What shall we say, when the Aid de Camp offered to conduct you with Safety to the Pursuit, and you still persisted in your Refusal to move?

WILL it be believed, that you ventured to oppose the Judgement of your Chief, and declare that you did not think it adviseable to hazard your Troops? Were they not sent to encounter Hazards, and face Death? Was not the Commander in Chief the proper Judge when and where it was necessary for them to incur the Risk?

HAD you forgot the Sarcastm which was thrown on a certain General at *Dettingen*, who was ludicrously stiled the *King's Confessionner*, from his declared Caution in *preserving his Majesty's Troops*? Had you forgot what you owed to the Honour of your Country, your own Reputation, and lastly—to your own Security?

REPORT however may have done you Injustice. You may not have been so culpable as Fame pronounces you. Sure you *cannot* have been so absurd. But how shall we clear your Conduct from Imputations founded on Evidence which cannot lie? Evidence, which contains a
tacit

tacit Impeachment of your Behaviour, and which proves at least that you have deserved a Censure, grievous in the highest Degree to a Soldier's Honour : I mean Prince *Ferdinand's* Orders. That I may not be thought to strain the Sense of them in the Course of my Comment, I will transcribe them, as they are printed. They are as follows :

Prince FERDINAND's Orders.

Head-Quarters at Suderhermen,

August 2, 1759.

“ THE Army to be under Arms at Six o'Clock
 “ this Afternoon, to fire a *Feu de Joye*. The
 “ Brigades of heavy Artillery are to take their
 “ respective Posts on the Wings, and in the
 “ Front: The three Brigades of light Artillery
 “ are to join the heavy, *viz.* Captain *Drum-*
 “ *mond's* Brigade with Major *Hasse's* upon its
 “ Right; *Bukeburg's* Brigade on the Left of the
 “ Center-brigade of heavy Artillery; Captain
 “ *Foy's* Brigade on the Right of Colonel *Hutte's*.
 “ When the Order is given for firing, it will be
 “ continued three Rounds, beginning upon the
 “ Right; first the Artillery, and then the Army.
 “ The Order of Firing as follows; 1. The Re-
 “ giment of *Saxe Gotba*, a Volley: 2. Captain
 “ *Philips's* Brigade: 3. Major *Hasse's*: 4. Cap-
 “ tain *Drummond's* Brigade: 5. The heavy and
 “ light Artillery of the Center-brigade: 6. Cap-
 “ tain *Foy's* Brigade: 7. Lieutenant Colonel
 “ *Hutte's* Brigade: 8. *Bukeburg's* Regiment and
 “ Gre-

“ Grenadiers, a Volley: Then the first Line
 “ from Right to Left, followed by the second
 “ from Left to Right; the Cannon taken from
 “ the Enemy to be placed with the Center-
 “ brigade of heavy Artillery, and to fire with it.

“ His Serene Highness orders his greatest
 “ Thanks to be given the whole Army for their
 “ Bravery and good Behaviour Yesterday, par-
 “ ticularly to the *British Infantry*, and the two
 “ Battalions of *Hanoverian Guards*; to all the
 “ Cavalry of the *left Wing*, and to General *Wan-*
 “ *genheim's Corps*, particularly the Regiment of
 “ *Holstein*, the *Hessian Cavalry*, the *Hanoverian*
 “ Regiment du Corps, and *Hamerstin's*; the
 “ same to all the Brigades of heavy Artillery.
 “ His Serene Highness declares publicly, that
 “ next to God he attributes the Glory of the
 “ Day to the Intrepidity and extraordinary good
 “ Behaviour of these Troops, which he assures
 “ them he shall retain the strongest Sense of as
 “ long as he lives; and if ever upon any Occa-
 “ sion he shall be able to serve these brave
 “ Troops, or any one of them in particular, it
 “ will give him the utmost Pleasure.

“ His Serene Highness orders his particular
 “ Thanks to be likewise given to General *Sporcken*,
 “ the Duke of *Holstein*, Lieutenant Generals *Imhoff*
 “ and *Urff*.

“ His Serene Highness is extremely obliged
 “ to the Count *de Bukeburg* for all his Care and
 “ Trouble in the Management of the Artillery,
 “ which was served with great Effect; likewise

“ to

“ to the commanding Officers of the several
 “ Brigades of Artillery, *viz.* Colonel *Brown*,
 “ Lieutenant Colonel *Hutte*, Major *Hasse*, and
 “ the three *English* Captains, *Phillips*, *Drummond*,
 “ and *Foy*.

“ His Serene Highness thinks himself infinitely
 “ obliged to Major Generals *Waldegrave* and
 “ *Kingsley*, for their great Courage, and good
 “ Order in which they conducted their Bri-
 “ gades.

“ His Serene Highness farther orders it to be
 “ declared to Lieutenant General *the Marquis of*
 “ *GRANBY*, that he is *persuaded*, that if he had
 “ had the good Fortune to have had HIM at the
 “ Head of the Cavalry of the RIGHT Wing,
 “ his Presence would have greatly contributed
 “ to make the Decision of that Day more com-
 “ plete and more brilliant.

“ In short, his Serene Highness orders that
 “ those of his Suit, whose Behaviour he most
 “ admired, be named, as the Duke of *Richmond*,
 “ Colonel *Fitzroy*, Captain *Ligonier*, Colonel
 “ *Watson*, Captain *Wilson* Aid de Camp to Major-
 “ General *Waldegrave*, Adjutant Generals *Erstoff*,
 “ *Bulow*, *Derendolle*, the Count *Tobe*, and *Mal-*
 “ *lerti*; his Serene Highness having much Reason
 “ to be satisfied with their Conduct.

“ AND his Serene Highness desires and orders
 “ the Generals of the Army, that upon all Occa-
 “ sions, *when Orders are brought to them by his*
 “ *Aids de Camp*, that they be *obeyed punctually*,
 “ and *without Delay*.”

IN these Orders there are many Passages which tacitly impeach your Honour and condemn your Conduct. Not to mention that your Name is omitted among the Number of your Fellow-soldiers who were deemed worthy to receive the public Thanks of their Chief, you stand further disgraced by an open Declaration, that your Place might have been better filled by an inferior Commander.

HIS Highness, addressing himself to the Marquis of *Granby*, expresses his Persuasion, that, if he had had HIM at the Head of the RIGHT Wing, HIS Presence would have greatly contributed to make the Decision of that Day *more complete and more brilliant*.

WHO then commanded on the *right Wing*? You, my Lord, know who was the Commander. You must know the Service for which he was destined. If he performed his Duty, why this Insinuation to his Dishonour? If he did not, you yourself must condemn him.

WE must either accuse the Commander in Chief of public Cruelty and Injustice, of which he cannot be suspected; or, we must conclude, that the Commander in the *right Wing* has been faulty.

IF it should appear that you were honoured with that Command, it is evident that, in the Opinion of your Superior, you are culpable of a Failure in Duty: The Aggravation or Extenuation of your Delinquency, will depend on the Merits of your Defence.

I WOULD not, as I have already declared, anticipate public Judgement, before you are legally convicted of public Offence. I will not therefore presume to declare either *wilful Negligence*, *Cowardice*, or *Disaffection*, to have been the Motives of your Failure.

BUT as every one has a Right, nay, as it is every one's Duty to throw all the Light he is able to cast on Circumstances of public Delinquency, you will pardon me the Severity of concluding, that from the natural Construction of Prince *Ferdinand's* Orders, the Commander of the *right Wing* has been guilty of a more than common Failure of Duty—he has been guilty of Disobedience.

UNDER which of the three capital Heads above enumerated this Disobedience will fall; or whether it is of a Nature not to be ranked under any of them, a *legal* Decision must determine. In the mean time it remains to shew, that the Conclusion of those Orders contains the strongest Implication, that such Commander has been disobedient. They close with the following Desire and Injunction.

“ His Serene Highness *desires* and *orders* the
 “ *Generals* of the Army, that upon all Occasions,
 “ when *Orders* are brought to them by his *Aids de*
 “ *Camp*, that they be *obeyed* punctually, and *with-*
 “ *out Delay.*”

ORDERS issued for public Thanks to a victorious Army, would not have ended with this earnest Request and Injunction, had there not been some

E

Instance

Instance of Misbehaviour to justify a Conclusion, which so little corresponds with a gratulatory Address.

THIS, as it were oburgatory Clause, tacked to Orders of Gratulation, renders the Piece of a motley Complexion. It is an unwelcome Counterbalance to the Eulogiums passed on those who distinguished themselves to Advantage. This had not appeared, if some glaring Misconduct had not called for such a tacit Reproof.

IN short, this Conclusion contains the strongest Implication, that *some General* DISOBEYED Orders which were brought to him by the *Aids de Camp*. Who this General is, we are left to conjecture. But who can he be, but the General who commanded in the *right Wing*?

WHO else, of Importance, is omitted in the Orders of Gratulation? Who else is branded as unfit for the Post he sustained, in which, as his Highness declares himself persuaded, the Presence of an Inferior in Command would have greatly contributed to make the Decision of the Day more *complete and more brilliant*?

IF you, my Lord, was the Commander of the *right Wing*, we find that, in the most powerful Terms of Implication, you are accused of *Disobedience* by your Commander in Chief: An Accusation preferred against you with the most public and mortifying Circumstances! An Accusation of you, placed in contrast to the Gratulation bestowed on your Fellow-soldiers!

Is it to be supposed, that his Highness would rashly mark a Commander of your Consequence, an *Englishman* of your Rank and Family, with such a Stain of public Ignominy, before he had thoroughly inquired into the Merits of your Conduct, and was fully satisfied that you deserved the Stigma?

HAD it appeared that it was impracticable for you to obey the Orders you received, you had not been dishonoured with this Mark of Opprobrium. In that Case it would have been ungenerous and unjust. We must conclude therefore, that you appeared to have been unwilling to obey them: And weighty Reasons will be expected to justify the Opposition of your own Will, against the Orders of your Chief.

THEY who pretend to be acquainted with your Character, seem confident that you will be able to vindicate your Fame, from the injurious Imputations which dishonour it. In the mean time, your Friends, if they deserve that Appellation, have prepared an Apology, which, without contributing to *your* Justification, wantonly casts a Reproach on the Commander in Chief.

THAT Prince *Ferdinand*, however great, is a Man, and as such liable to the Passions of human Nature, we need not be told. That it is *possible* for him to be moved by Pique and Animosity, we cannot doubt. That it is *possible* he might issue mistaken, nay even contradictory Orders, we can readily believe.

BUT because it is possible that he might be susceptible of such weak Impressions, it is insinuated that he acted under their Influence. Because it is possible that he might be guilty of Contradictions, it is insinuated that he was: And that it is not the first Time he has embarrassed his Friends by the Inconsistency of his Orders. These Insinuations too, come from an unknown Apologist of yours, who sets out with warning us to be cautious how we *slander* the GREAT.

HOWEVER, not to comment on the Absurdity and Impropriety of this Gentleman's manner of apologizing, I will consider the Matter of his Apology. I will examine the *Suppositions* he makes in your Favour: And, even admitting those Suppositions as Facts, they will appear to be of no Weight in your Justification. First, however, I will consider them as they affect the Prince.

I AM not one of those Enthusiasts who blindly pay Adoration to Heroes; yet I know how to shew due Respect to military Merit. I could wish there was no Occasion for Warriors. Where they are necessary, and discharge their Duty gloriously, they deserve the Applause of Mankind. If Envy or Falshood detract from their Worth, it is Generosity to become their Advocates. On this Principle I shall take Leave to obviate these Insinuations which are thrown out to the Prejudice of his Highness.

“ SUPPOSE,” says this unknown Apologist,
 “ it should be found that *different* Orders were
 “ sent

“ sent at the same time, will any Man,” he asks,
 “ say they could both be executed ? ”

To this Supposition, I answer, that it is next to impossible for two Aids de Camp to come at the same time, and each, in *one Breath*, to deliver different Orders.

WE know that the Tumult of the Field affords no room for Attention to Ceremony ; yet we can hardly presume that two Aids de Camp would be so absurd and indecent as to address a Commander of high Rank, both speaking at the same time. It is reasonable and natural therefore to conclude, that, let the Interval be ever so small, the Orders of the one were delivered subsequent to those of the other.

GRANTING nevertheless that it was possible for them to have been delivered *eodem punctu*, and to have been different in their Directions, yet this will not ground any Impeachment against the Commander in Chief, or imply any Contradiction in him.

HE might have issued Orders one Minute, and the next Glance of his Eye might have viewed the Disposition of the Field varied. Let me, for the Sake of Illustration only, in my Turn suppose, that the Chief might think it necessary to charge the *left* Wing of the Enemy, and should have dispatched an Aid de Camp with Orders to an inferior Commander, to begin the Attack in that Part directly.

LET me suppose again, that the Aid de Camp was no sooner departed with these Orders,
 I than

than the Chief perceived the Enemy's *left* Wing to give Way, and that they gained Ground in the *Right*—That on such Alteration in the Face of Battle, which often happens very suddenly and unexpectedly, he immediately sent another Aid de Camp to the *same* Commander, with Orders for him to carry his Attack to the *Right*.

It is more than possible in this Case, that these two Aids de Camp, one setting out so soon after the other, might, by the Latter's being better mounted, or taking a nearer Rout than the Former, both reach the Commander to whom they were sent, at the same time, and with these different Orders.

WILL any one argue however, that because these Orders were different, and, as coming together, contradictory, *quoad* the Commander to whom they were directed, that therefore a Charge of Contradiction and Inconsistency is to be imputed to the Chief who issued them?

COULD we suppose that these two Orders were dispatched at *one and the same Time*, the Chief might justly be accused of Inconsistency: But it does not follow, that because they *arrived* together, they were therefore *sent* together.

As the Supposition of your Apologist is no just Impeachment of the Prince's Conduct, neither is it any reasonable Vindication of your Inactivity. I have observed that it is next to impossible for two different Orders to be delivered in the same Breath; but that, let the Interval be
ever

ever so inconsiderable, one must be subsequent to the other.

WHICH then was it your Duty to have obeyed? Undoubtedly, the *last*. Allowing however that both were delivered in the same Moment; what would a Man of Judgement, what would a Man of Honour do in such a Dilemma? Would he coolly expostulate in the Heat of Battle? Would he wait for an Explanation of his Orders while he saw his Fellow-soldiers bleeding, and while the Opportunity of distinguishing himself and serving his Country, passed by ingloriously? No. His Sense and Spirit would suggest more noble and animated Conduct. He would have compared the different Orders with the present Disposition of the Field of Battle, and have followed those, which, in his best Judgement, were most conducive to his own Glory, and the Service of the Day.

“SUPPOSE,” adds your Apologist, “that the Commander was sent with ALL the HORSE to one Attack, and with the BRITISH HORSE to another, and while the Orders were explained, the Occasion was lost; will any Man of Candour,” says he, “censure him?”

Yes, certainly; the whole World will condemn him. Believe me, my Lord, he cannot be your Friend who offers this weak Palliation in your Behalf. It rather aggravates than extenuates your Misconduct.

THIS Apology acknowledges, that *both* Orders were *positive*, as to the Injunction for you to *attack*.

attack. You could not therefore mistake the *Substance* of your Directions: And had you erred in the *Mode* of Action, however you might have been censured, you would not have been dishonoured.

It was for your Honour, it was your Duty, at all Events to have *attacked*. While you waited to know with what particular Force to make the Attack, you might have been sure that the Occasion for your Service would be lost; and that the World would reproach you as one glad to let the Opportunity slip.

IN such a Crisis, you should have consulted your own Reason, and, in comparing your Orders, should have adhered to those which, upon a View of the Field, seemed most correspondent with present Expedience. You should have known, that in the Confusion of Battle, something must be left to Chance, Accident, and the Hazard of Construction. Though you could not make *two* Attacks at a time, you should nevertheless have charged, and have directed your Force, where it appeared to you, to be most requisite.

ANY Resolution on your Side was preferable to Inaction. *That*, you might be sensible, would be certain Disgrace to you, and might have ruined, instead of impairing, the Success of the Day. If you had *charged improperly*, the Disagreement of the different Directions you received, would have been a powerful and uncontrovertible Plea in your Defence. Every Body must have
acquitted

acquitted you for not acting in *two* Places at once; and have censured him who directed an Impossibility: But nothing can excuse your *not charging at all*, when *both your Orders* were so positive for that Purpose.

YOUR Apologist, who tells us, that his Highness on a former Occasion embarrassed one of his Friends with a like Contrariety of Orders, does not venture to assure us that such Embarrassment rendered *him* totally inactive. He does not say, that *he* stood quietly and peaceably, with his Hands before him, waiting for an Explanation. We are to presume therefore that *he* had the Sense and Spirit to put *some Construction* on his Orders.

HAD you, my Lord, exerted such a Resolution, your own Reputation might have acquired additional Lustre, and the Decision of the Day been "more complete and brilliant." You would have shewn Spirit, and a Disposition to signalize yourself, however you might have erred in executing your Intentions.

AT present, from Circumstances hitherto uncontroverted, nay corroborated by the Apology offered for your Conduct, you stand accused of *disobeying Orders*. A Crime eminently capital in a Soldier, but most unpardonable when *Inaction* is the Consequence of *Disobedience*.

It is owned, that the Cavalry under your Command were *not* engaged. It is confessed that you received Orders to lead them to the Attack. It is acknowledged that you disobeyed those

F

Orders,

Orders, and declined the Charge. Wherefore you declined it, I hope you will be able to demonstrate. I hope you will be able to prove that it was impracticable to execute *either* of your Orders. To tell us that you could not execute *both* at once, is being wanton in your Defence.

It will require the full Display of your Eloquence, and the utmost Exertion of your great Talents and Abilities, to justify yourself before the Tribunal of your Country. If your Delinquency should not fall within the Letter of the Law, yet after all it will demand all your Philosophy, to quiet the Compunctions of your own Conscience.

If you have a just Sense of true Glory, if you have a Dread of Shame, I commiserate your Condition. Think of the Reproaches which await the Soldier, who stands inactive in the Heat of Battle. Remember, my Lord, that it is one thing to be out of the Reach of Justice, another, to stand within the Pale of Honour.

Of the Motives of your Disobedience, various are the Conjectures. There are Men, no doubt, who delight to add the Load of Slander to the Scale of Misfortune; and love to have a Hand in weighing down those who are sinking. Such perhaps, are they, who now affect to think your Courage problematical; who whisper Tales of *St. Cas*, and talk of a Backwardness in that Expedition, which, if true, gave a fatal Omen of future Reluctance.

BUT

BUT as you yourself are the best Judge of what passed in your Breast, it may seem cruel to impute your Disobedience to the most ignominious of all Principles. That you declined giving Proofs of heroic Ardour, when Occasion offered, and the Commands of your Chief directed the Exertion, is certain. Whether Fear tied your Hands or not, your own Conscience can best decide.

As to Disaffection, there does not appear to be the least Colour for such an Imputation. In short, the Supposition *least* injurious to your Honour is to conclude, that national Pride, and private Animosity against your Chief, prompted your Disobedience; and disposed you rather to seek an Opportunity of casting a Reproach on your Superior, by cavilling at his Orders, than of signalizing yourself, and promoting the general Cause.

BUT will this excuse you before the Bar of the Public? Will this absolve you in the Courts of Reason and Honour? The true national Pride, my Lord, is to act, *on all Occasions*, for the Glory and Interest of our Country.

SUPPOSING, which has not yet been pretended, that his Highness had treated you with Indignity, and thereby affronted the Nation: Yet you must have been sensible that the Hour of Battle was not a time to avenge an Affront offered to the Kingdom, in *your* Person. You might be certain, that your ill-timed Resentment would ex-

pose your Country to Disgrace, and *bazard* the Ruin of the Common Cause.

A RESENTMENT so ill placed, favours more of *personal* Malice, than of *national* Indignation. It rather seems that you was more earnest to revenge your own supposed Wrongs, than your Country's. You took the Means to ruin the Welfare, not to assert the Dignity of the Nation : And had not some powerful Passion blinded your Understanding, you might have perceived that such a Gratification of Revenge, involved your own Destruction.

WHO can that other nameless Apologist of yours be, who has the Confidence and Absurdity to insult the Public with the following Quere ?—
 “ If,” says he, “ a just Sense of the Dignity of
 “ that Nation, which L— G—— S———
 “ in some Measure had the Honour of repre-
 “ senting, has been the Occasion of his *forbear-*
 “ *ing* any thing, which, in his Opinion, may not
 “ be detrimental to it, is there an *Englishman*
 “ who should not *espouse* his Cause ?”

I AM ashamed to have transcribed this Sentence.—Is there an *Englishman* who can espouse the Cause of a Commander who remained *inactive* in the Day of Battle, when *ordered* to *attack* ? Is there an *Englishman* so ignorant of the Rules of Discipline, so unsatisfied of the *Necessity* of *Subordination*, as to be an Advocate for an inferior Officer who sets *HIS Opinion* against the *Commands* of his Superior ?

Is there an *Englishman* so weak as to believe that a just Sense of the Dignity of the Nation, could *possibly* occasion his Forbearance? Is there an *Englishman* so credulous to conclude (against the Expressions of the Prince's positive Persuasion to the contrary) that his Forbearance has *not* been detrimental? Could it be otherwise than detrimental to *stand still*, when ordered to *attack*?

ADMITTING however that it had not been detrimental,—that it was not even likely to be so—Yet, was a Commander of his Rank to content himself with the Satisfaction of *doing no Harm*? Was he placed at the Head of such gallant Forces for *negative* Purposes? Was he not called into the Field for *active* Services? Was he not *ordered* to exert them? Did he not *disobey*? Is it not doing Harm, to refuse to execute the Service he was appointed to perform?

SUCH Advocates, my Lord, betray the Weakness of the Cause they defend. It is to be hoped, however, that you yourself will urge more powerful Justifications in Excuse of your *Disobedience*. You cannot be insensible of the fatal Consequences of which it has been, and may still be, productive.

HIS Highness has declared himself persuaded that it rendered the Decision of the Day *less complete and brilliant*. But the immediate Effects are not all. The Contagion of bad Example may diffuse its baneful Influence, to the future Prejudice of the Service.

By

By the same Rule that *you* may, with Impunity, disobey the Directions of your Chief, the next in Command may refuse Obedience to yours; till, at length, particular Instances of Disobedience may multiply to a general *Mutiny*.

It will be in vain for Ministers to direct Schemes for the Service of the State, or for Commanders in Chief to form Plans of Action, if their Operations are liable to be disconcerted for want of due Obedience in those who are ordered to carry them into Execution.

I NEED not inform you, my Lord, that among the *Romans* it was Death to *fight* without the General's Orders. How much more capital then must it be, to disobey his Orders *for fighting*?

It will be needless likewise to remind you of an extraordinary Custom among the same people, which *A. Gellius* records; and which directs, that they who did not observe the Rules of Discipline should be let Blood. Which Punishment, in the Opinion of an eminent Critic, was intended to denote, That those mean-spirited Wretches deserved to lose their Blood with Disgrace and Ignominy, which they dared not shed nobly and honourably in the Service of their Country.

• ALL Nations, you well know, have proceeded with the utmost Severity against those who have infringed the Rules of Discipline, by Disobedience. Our Military Laws pronounce the Offence capital: We have seen too many of Distinction doomed to suffer the severe Penalty: It is to be wished that the Number may never increase.

It

IT is to be wished, my Lord, that you may be able to justify your Conduct upon a judicial Examination. In the mean time, the Public, who have been injured by your Failure, have a Right to expostulate with you, and express their Sense of your Behaviour.

SHOULD you be acquitted by your Judges, your Honour will require you to satisfy your Fellow-citizens: The Sentence which secures you from public Punishment, may not exempt you from public Censure.

YOUR Apologists neither act with Justice nor Discretion when they recriminate, and *positively* accuse his Highness of Rashness. Says one of them—"As the Prince *has* been *rash* in his Behaviour, he may also have been *wrong* in his Judgement." This is an indecent Accusation, followed by a malevolent Supposition.

IT should be remembered, that if it is unjust to condemn *you* unheard, it is not less so to censure your Superior. It should be remembered likewise, that if this Supposition should prove to be a Fact; if it should appear that his Highness was wrong in his Judgement, *his* Error will not avail you in your Defence.

WHETHER his Judgement was right or wrong, it was not your Duty to dispute it, but to obey his Directions; his Order was a Voucher for your Conduct: To disobey it, you knew was a Breach of Discipline, and a capital Crime.

BUT how does it appear that the Prince has been rash? What! Because at the Head of the
Troops,

Troops, he fixed a Mark of Reprobation on the Commander of the right Wing? Does this, as your Apologist insinuates, imply any Imputation to the Dishonour of the *British* Troops in general? Has he not, in exprefs Terms, generously acknowledged, that, next to Providence, he owed his Success to the Bravery of the *British* Forces?

It is to be presumed that his Highness was, and indeed he declares himself to have been, thoroughly persuaded, of the Misbehaviour of that Commander. Under this Persuasion, it was just and politic, to make the Censure publickly, as the Offence was public.

THE Good of the Service required the Example. The greater the Rank of the Commander, the more notorious should be the Reprimand; that it may appear in the Face of the whole Army, that no Distinction, or Nobility, whatever, can excuse the Soldier who fails in his Duty.

As signal Bravery should be recompensed by Rewards and public Marks of Approbation, to animate others with a noble Emulation to deserve such honourable Notice; so ought distinguished Misconduct to be branded with public Reproach and Punishment, to deter others from becoming the shameful and unhappy Objects of such ignominious Severity.

In an Army, such as his Highness commands, the Rigour of Discipline ought to be particularly observed. They have more than a common Stake to lose. They fight *pro Aris & Focis*: And every one should be made sensible, that all
their

their Hopes depend on their own good Conduct and Intrepidity.

WE have an Evidence in Marshal *Belleisle's* Letter to Marshal *Contades*, of the sanguine and inhuman Designs of the Enemy. We find that large Contributions were to have been exacted, and that *Hanover* was to have been made a downright Desert.

SUCH were the barbarous Intentions of a People, who boast of being polished? Such were the savage Injunctions of a People who call themselves Christians! A Barbarity too, directed to have been exercised against an innocent Nation, which, strictly speaking, is no Party in the Quarrel, and has done nothing to provoke such Cruelty.

WE may learn from their purposed Inhumanity towards that Electorate, what Treatment we are to expect, should they ever gain Footing on the *English* Coast. O! What a Reproach it is to human Nature, that Men in collective Bodies should be guilty of shocking Instances of Injustice and Brutality, for which, were they to act as Individuals, each would condemn the other as an Object of universal Abhorrence and Detestation, and pursue him as a savage Monster, who ought to suffer Death with the utmost Severity of Torture?

CAN the Number of the Offenders then, change the Nature of the Offence? Is not that which would be a Crime in one Man, a multiplied Crime in a Million? Reason answers in the Affir-

G

mative:

mative: And however Casuists may urge the Plea of political Necessity, it will always be found eventually, that barbarous Injustice is as contrary to political Interest, as it is opposite to moral Goodness.

ALL unjust and savage Expedients are but the temporary Shifts of short-sighted Statesmen, who want an enlarged Capacity to provide against distant Events, and Fortitude to persevere thro' the Progress of an extensive System. Men of limited Talents have recourse to Extremities: Great Minds find Resources in Moderation:

THAT the Electorate has hitherto escaped the dreadful Calamities with which a barbarous Enemy proposed to afflict them, has not been owing to you, my Lord. For any thing you contributed to avert the dismal Scene, the Plains of *Minden* might have been covered with the dead Bodies of your victorious Countrymen and Confederates: *Hanover* might have been made the Seat of Ruin and Desolation: The Fate of *Germany* might have been unhappily decided: And *Britain* compelled to submit to an inglorious Peace.

ALL these horrid Consequences might have attended your unaccountable Misbehaviour. That they did not, we are beholden to good Fortune, and the Intrepidity of those gallant Forces, who redeemed us from these dreadful Apprehensions of Misery and Destruction at the Price of their Lives.

BUT

BUT I forget that you have not been heard in your Defence. Your Country waits for an Explanation : And every Man of Candour and Impartiality wishes that your Vindication may prove satisfactory.

IN the mean time I cannot forbear expressing my Concern that your unfortunate Situation should affect an aged Father and venerable Peer, who has grown old by the Side of his Sovereign, and by a long Life of Loyalty and good Services, has preserved the Favour of his Royal Master, without forfeiting the Esteem of his Fellow-citizens—A Father, who deserved a better Fate than to have even a Suspicion of Dishonour light on so near a Branch of his Family. But though we lament his Feelings, we admire his Fortitude. Moved with the Affection of a tender Parent, he adheres to Justice with a *Roman* Rigour; and nobly scorns to interpose between an offending Son and an injured Country.

A

POSTSCRIPT.

THE Writer of the foregoing Letter, has been charged with *asserting* a Falshood with respect to the Noble Commander's Behaviour at *St. Cas*; in which Expedition, it seems, he was not present.

THOUGH the Writer has too much conscious Pride to enter the Lists of Controversy with so contemptible an Opponent as the Author of this Charge, yet his Respect for the Public obliges him to take Notice of such an Impeachment of his Veracity.

HE appeals to every candid and intelligent Reader, whether his Letter contains any thing like such an *Affertion*, to the Prejudice of the Commander. It is to be remembered, that the Writer sets out with observing, that "Public Rumour begets public Prejudices: That it is Friendship to repeat the Reports propagated relating to the Noble Commander's Conduct: That, knowing them, he may be able to remove them."

WHEN

WHEN the Writer mentions the Report respecting the Commander's Behaviour at *St. Cas*, he introduces it with all the Tendernefs which Candour could fuffeft.—“ There are,” he fays, “ Men, no doubt, who delight to add the Load “ of *Slander*, to the Scale of Misfortune ; and “ love to have a Hand in weighing down thofe “ who are finking. Such perhaps, are they, who “ now affect to think your Courage problematical ; who whisper Tales of *St. Cas*,” &c. Is there any thing like an Affertion in this Paffage ? Is there fo much as an Infinnuation of the Writer's ? Does he do more than mention a Report, which, as he generously premifes, may have arifen from Slander ?

BUT fuppofe he had *afferted* that the Commander was backward in that Expedition : And that he fhould, through Miftake, have faid *St. Cas*, inftead of *St. Maloes*. Would this be any fubftantial Ground for impeaching the Writer's Veracity ? Would a Miftake in the Place, make any Difference as to the Fact ? The Subftance of the Report affecting the Noble Lord's Honour, is the *Manner how* he behaved, not the *Place where* he commanded. It is immaterial whether it was at *St. Cas*, or *St. Kits* ; at *St. Maloes*, or *Maryland*.

IF a Man was indicted for a Robbery in *St. James's-Street*, and it fhould appear that the Fact was committed in *Pall-Mall*, would this Miftake, though it might fave the Delinquent, be any Reflection on the Profecutor's Honour, or any
Im-

Impeachment of his moral Truth? Though it might procure the Criminal his Acquittal at the *Old-Bailey*, yet would he not stand universally condemned at the Bar of Conscience? But it is common for puny Advocates, who have not Power to enter into the Heart and Substance of a Cause, to raise Quibbles on some immaterial Point, totally foreign from the real Subject of Consideration.

UPON the whole, the Writer is conscious to have advanced nothing through Malice; nor does he wish to retract the Substance of any thing he has offered. Prince *Ferdinand's* Orders were a sufficient Foundation for his Animadversions: And Sovereign Authority, which has deprived the Noble Lord of his Command, has given Countenance to his Highness's Conduct, at the same time that it passes Condemnation on the Delinquent.—So far, at least, as his *Honour* is concerned.

AFTER such an Intimation, it is hard to say, whether the Absurdity or Insolence of his Lordship's numerous Apologists is most to be admired. They have still the Confidence to accuse his Highness of Rashness and Inconsistency: And, though they take this Liberty with the Prince, yet, when we expostulate with the Noble Commander, they tell us that we must not meddle with *great Men* and *great Characters*.

It is to be hoped, that these abject Sycophants did not learn such Language in any Part of *Great-Britain*. They are to know, that whatever
I the

the Noble Lord's Rank and Title may be, in the Stile of Heraldry, yet, in the Language of Freedom, he was, during his Command, no more than a Servant to the Public: And every Member of that Public, has a Right to enquire in what Manner he discharged his Duty in their Service.

F I N I S.

the Noble Lord's Rank and Title may be
 the Side of Liberty, yet in the Language of
 Freedom, he was bearing the Command, no more
 than a servant to the Public: And every Mem-
 ber of the Public, has a Right to enquire in
 what Manner he discharged his Duty in that
 Service.

W. I. N. I. S.